

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

In re U.S. Patent Application of )  
OGAWA et al. )  
Application Number: To Be Assigned )  
Filed: Concurrently Herewith )  
For: APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING VALVE )  
OPENING/CLOSING TIMING )  
Attorney Docket No. KITA.0023 )

Commissioner of Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Sir:

Applicants have amended the claims in order to amend Claim 1. Prior to an examination on the merits, please amend the above-identified application as follows: